



April 2, 2010

Via First Class and Electronic Mail

Mr. Timothy Frazier
Designated Federal Official
President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: Request for Institutional and Financial Disclosures pursuant to Federal
Advisory Committee Act**

Dear Mr. Frazier:

Representing over a million members and online activists nationwide, the Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") writes today to respectfully request that the Designated Federal Official assigned to the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future ("Blue Ribbon Commission") publicly post on the Department of Energy's ("DOE") website the full disclosure of any and all professional, advisory, and financial ties of the committee members to the commercial nuclear industry and/or to the DOE, its laboratories, and contractors. Such disclosure is appropriate and merited under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. See, 5 U.S.C. App. II (1972). NRDC attorney Geoffrey Fettus initially requested this action in an oral public statement to the first meeting of the Commissioners on March 26, 2010 at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

While we have high regard for the individual integrity of its members, such high regard is insufficient to ensure a fair and balanced consideration of the issues before the Commission. The membership of the Blue Ribbon Commission is unbalanced with respect to the subject matter it has been tasked to review. The views of commissioners regarding the future role of nuclear power in the United States and abroad are likely to strongly influence their recommendations related to the U.S. government's nuclear waste management policies. There are a number of individuals on this Commission with well-known views that nuclear power should have an expanded role in meeting U.S. energy needs, and several have endorsed additional federal subsidies to nuclear power to promote this objective. Indeed, several members expressed sentiments along these lines at the initial convening of the Commission.

Moreover, several members of the commission may have corporate clients, or serve as officers or directors of entities with direct financial interests in the outcome of the Commission's proceedings. By contrast, alternative views that the nuclear industry should compete for market share without additional federal subsidies, or that nuclear power's role should be minimized for cost, proliferation, environmental or safety reasons, are not represented on the Commission.

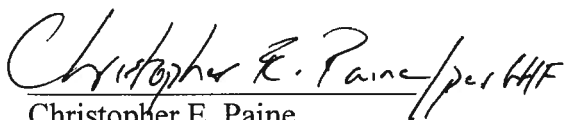
In light of this lack of balance, individual professional and financial affiliations and potential conflicts-of-interest loom larger than they otherwise would if the Commission were fairly balanced as to the range of views represented.


We note that in the memorandum to the Energy Secretary requesting the establishment of the Commission, the President stated:

I request that you establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (Commission) and appoint its members. Those members should include *recognized representatives and experts from a range of disciplines and with a range of perspectives*, and may include participation of appropriate Federal officials. *The Commission's business should be conducted in an open and transparent manner.* [January 29, 2010 letter from President Barack Obama to Secretary Steven Chu (emphasis added).]

The public interest is best served by full public disclosure of the committee members past and present professional affiliations, consultancies, directorships, and financial holdings, followed by a rebalancing of the committee membership and strict adherence to transparency for the duration of the Blue Ribbon Commission's tenure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


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